



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Ratan K. CHAUDHURI

Examiner: Michele C. Flood

Serial No.: 10/660,742

Group Art Unit: 1655

Filed: September 12, 2003

Title: ENRICHED AQUEOUS COMPONENTS OF EMBLICA OFFICINALIS

**REPLY**

Mail Stop  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action of March 27, 2006. The restriction requirement divides Applicants application into no less than 10 different groups, irrespective of the fact that all of the groups are classified in class 424, subclass 725. Since all the groups can be searched in class 424, subclass 725, there would be only a minor burden on the part of the Examiner to examine all of the claims at issue. Indeed, MPEP § 803 states as follows:

"If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions."

Accordingly, in view of the clear mandate of the MPEP, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement.

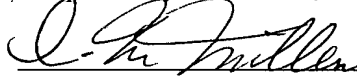
For the purposes of complying with the restriction requirement, Applicants elect group III, presently directly to claims 5-18.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully alerted to the fact that an Information Disclosure Statement is being concurrently filed. This Information Disclosure Statement is based on information received from an International examining authority.

In view of this response, an early action on the merits of the entire application, is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: EMIC-0061

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IWM:pdv